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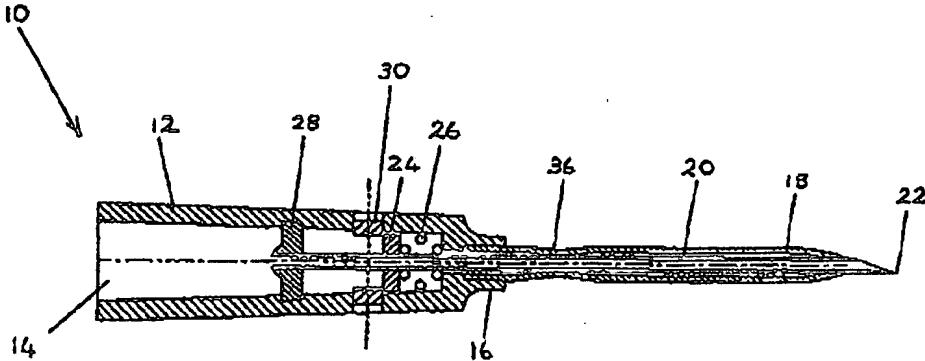


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(71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: PRESTIDGE, Dean, Brian [AU/AU]; 7 Key West Drive, Mullaloo, W.A. 6027 (AU). WHISSON, Maxwell, Edmund [AU/AU]; 5/70 Subiaco Road, Subiaco, W.A. 6008 (AU).			
(74) Agent: LORD, Kelvin, Ernest; Lord & Company, 4 Doura Place, West Perth, W.A. 6005 (AU).			

(54) Title: A NEEDLE APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

A needle apparatus (10) has a thin walled catheter (18) enclosing a tubular needle (20) having a sharp point (22), the catheter (18) and the needle (20) being relatively moveable longitudinally a short distance, from a first position where the needle (20) projects from the catheter (18) and to a second position at which the sharp point (22) is located within the catheter (18). The needle (20) remains in the fluid pathway of the needle apparatus (10) at all times. The needle apparatus (10) is arranged to pierce tissue when the catheter (18) and the needle (20) are in the first position.

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